

Student Name:

Date:

Identifying and Understanding Figurative Language

When you see something that seems OUT OF CONTEXT or POETIC or in a UNIQUE STYLE it may be figurative language.

Examples:

A symbol is an object that represents an idea. A flag represents American freedom. A raised fist represents rebellion.

A metaphor is a comparison between two nouns. The sun is a dangerous predator, scalding our skins. My heart is a fragile piece of china, easily broken.

A simile is a comparison between two nouns using like or as. His frustration with his teacher erupted like a volcano. My spirit was as broken as a shattered window.

Working with a partner, try to identify each of these types of figurative language from Make Lemonade and consider their meaning.

1. "Jeremy dancing his Hacky sack dance, Jolly shimmying her shimmy of 'I got no problems, no babies dads disappeared on me and I ain't been fired from my job.' Jilly bouncing on my arm and humming and leaning out from my hip like a flag waving itself. A family from the continent of I don't know what" (Wolff 91).

Type of figurative language?

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

2. "I look at her like I haven't done before. I feel a machine gun in my head not going off; I feel a lightbulbs turning bright in there, I feel a microphone against my brain" (Wolff 98).

Type of figurative language?

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

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3. "She looks at me like I was rude and she says 'Here we got chicken pox and I have to miss school and nobody ever tells me nothing and you want to know did I ever play SOCCER?' And she gives me her resentfulness by saying that word" (Wolff 122).

Type of figurative language?

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

4. "She looks like a promise, like she can just begin living all over again from this minute and everything will be fine" (Wolff 134).

Type of figurative language?

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

5. "Up comes Jilly on her two feet looking like somebody on a boat deck, with her surprised face not knowing whether she's gonna fall down or fly" (Wolff 174).

Type of figurative language?

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

Now create your own:

1. What is a symbol for Jeremy's feeling of power?
2. Create a simile comparing Jolly's feelings of being out of place at school.
3. What is a metaphor for LaVaughn's enduring faith in Jolly?
4. Identify a symbol for Jolly's being alone in the world or unimportant?
5. Create a symbol for LaVaughn's mother's protectiveness.